

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 02 JANUARY 2005

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on Echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

In the news today:

AMENDED RADIO REGULATIONS - THE LATEST

PRETORIA ARC CELEBRATES ITS 75TH YEAR.

AO-51 CONFIGURED FOR EARTHQUAKE/Tsunami SUPPORT

CONTEST NEWS

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Please note that the SARL office is still closed and will re-open again on the 10th January.

SARL NEWS depends on clubs and individuals for news items of interest to amateurs. Please place your news items on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

AMENDED RADIO REGULATIONS - THE LATEST

It regrets SARL News to announce that the promise, which was included in last Sunday's SARL national bulletin, about the publication of the amendments to the radio regulations on the 30th December, did not materialise.

The news about the publication was regarded as authentic since it had been provided by a reliable source. Enquiries on the morning of the 30th December, did not result in any further light on this matter, other than vague references to next year. Graham Hartlett, ZS6GJH, is however in daily contact with the authorities and everything possible is being done to expedite the process. He asks radio amateurs to be patient and to comply with the current regulations until government officially publishes the amendments.

SARL News is sorry that our radio amateurs, especially the ZR licensees who have eagerly been waiting to enter the new year on HF, have been disappointed in this way. SARL News wishes to stress that no Councillor of the SARL is in any way involved in the cause of the delay. In the meantime, it is still something exciting to look forward to in the new year and we trust that it will happen soon.

The new date for the PEARS' "Welcome to HF" competition will probably be announced soon; in the meantime, gets ready for it.

PRETORIA ARC CELEBRATES ITS 75TH YEAR.

The President and Council of the SARL wish to congratulate the Pretoria Amateur Radio Club on their 75th birthday.

Pretoria ARC, one of the oldest amateur radio clubs in South Africa, has had many a name changes in their chequered past - from the "Pretoria Radio Club" to the "Pretoria Section of Di-vision 6"; the "Pretoria Division"; the "Pretoria Radio Club"; the "Pretoria Branch of the SARL" and finally the "Pre-toria Amateur Radio Club".

They have set the 1st of January 1930 as their founding date and could even be conservative in their estimate. Thus, the club's new call sign, ZS75PTA, will be heard on the air as from the 1st of January.

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club is a proud supporter of the South African Radio League.

Congratulations Pretoria ARC!

AO-51 CONFIGURED FOR EARTHQUAKE/Tsunami SUPPORT

The Echo Command Team reported that in an effort to lend any assistance possible to the Earthquake/Tsunami disaster area, AO-51 will be configured and opened for use as a store and forward message satellite for those in the disaster area. Therefore, the current schedule for AO-51 has been cancelled. AO-51 was reconfigured at approximately 03:05 UTC on 30 December 2004 to operate as a Store and Forward PBBS.

The PBBS will still be open to general amateur use, but amateur operators should be ready to cease BBS operations at any moment, when message traffic is received. The team asks that all unattended PBBS operation stop until further notice. AO-51 PBBS users may be requested to help download and forward messages.

The FM repeater (Downlink 435,300 MHz, Uplink 145,920 MHz) will be turned off to allow maximum power to be used on the PBBS downlink. The configuration for AO-51 PBBS will be: Downlink: 435,150 MHz, FM 9600 baud PacSat BroadCast Protocol (PBBS) Uplink: 145,860 MHz FM, 9600 baud PacSat BroadCast Protocol (PBBS).

Anyone that can help contact those in the disaster area and inform them of the Satellite resource is encouraged to do so. Should another configuration of AO-51 be identified as providing more benefit to those in the disaster area, AMSAT will adjust AO-51's operating mode accordingly.

AMSAT and the Echo Command Team appreciate your help and understanding as we try to lend assistance.

INCREASED USE OF ECHOLINK

Since the use of Echolink is gaining in popularity, Chris, ZS6FCS, would like to explore the possibility of setting up a nation-wide repeater network. The advantages are that no new repeater sites are required as many repeaters already cover vast areas throughout South Africa. All that is required is that radio amateurs with internet access make their facilities available to other radio amateurs. By using Echolink, programmes such as ARMI or Intechnet can be seamlessly integrated into existing repeater networks with high quality audio. Chris will welcome any proposals in order to take this idea forward.

Chris can be contacted on 012 333 1826 or via e-mail to zs6fcs@telkomsa.net.

CONTESTING NEWS

The New Year starts with the annual Hunting Lions in the Air activity scheduled for the weekend of 15 and 16 January. Information about this activity is available on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/lionita.asp

The Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society is running its annual VHF contest over the weekend of 21, 22 and 23 January. Activity starts at 16:00 GMT on 21 Jan and ends at 16:00 GMT on 23 Jan, split into two 24-hour sessions. Information is available on the PEARS web site at www.qsl.net/zs2pe.

On Saturday 29 January, the first SARL Youth Day activity will take place, starting at 07:00 and ending at 11:00 GMT. Activity is on 20 and 40 metres as well as on VHF frequencies.

The first leg of the SARL HF Field Day takes place over the weekend of 12 and 13 February 2005, starting at 10:00 GMT on the Saturday and ending 24 hours later.

NEW SOUTHERN AFRICAN VHF MAILING LIST

A new automatic Mailing List for Southern African VHF enthusiasts has been set up! To subscribe to this list please visit <http://mailman.qth.net/mailman/listinfo/zsvhf> and fill in the relevant details.

This list is maintained by Barry, ZR2DX, and is set up via the QSL.net system. If you wish to subscribe to the list but only have email facilities and not web browsing access, drop an email to zr2dx@mweb.co.za to get subscribed! Please get yourself registered to this service, and let your friends and club members know about it!

EAST RAND FLEA MARKET

The East Rand Radio Club will be hosting a flea market on 5 February from 09:00 at the clubhouse in Springs.

Tables are R20-00 each and bookings can be done with Johanna Harris on telephone 011 814 2121. This flea market marks the date of the VHF-UHF Linear Amplifier giveaway. Tickets are still available.

PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Over the past week, propagation conditions were once again weak. It seems there is more activity inside the earth than outside. On Thursday the sunspot number was 49,0 compared to last week's 44,3. The expected peak did not make an appearance - the last decent peak was in October 2004. Photos of the sun's surface taken this week show there is no sunspot activity. In addition, no corona-openings are expected - really a sombre situation! Despite this, there was a good opening to the East on Wednesday afternoon.

A very interesting contact was made with someone in Dubai; he was operating an emergency station following the disaster in the Indian Ocean. During the time it is needed most, long distance communication failed the people in need of it.

DIARY OF EVENTS

10 January - SARL Office opens; 15 and 16 January - Hunting Lions in the Air; 21 to 23 January - PEARS VHF Contest; 23 January - President's net; 29 January - SARL Youth Day; 5 February - East Rand RC Flea market 12 February - RTA lecture at the NARC at 10:00; 12 and 13 February SARL - HF Field Day; 9 April - SARL AGM; 14 May - Submit synopsis of proposed papers for AMSATCON2005; 31 March - Submit final papers for AMSATCON2005.

SARL News wishes all radio amateurs a pleasant 2005.

The SARL invites you to listen on Sundays at 10:00 to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 700, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and many 2 m repeaters in different areas. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

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